

WE CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented method of managing print job costs, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing an electronic print job request, the print job request having a set of attributes;

displaying the set of attributes;

prior to printing the print job, calculating a cost of the electronic print job using the set of attributes; and

displaying the calculated cost.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cost of the electronic print job includes a cost of printing.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the cost includes estimated consumables cost based on a set of consumable factors.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the consumable factors include one or more of media cost, binding material cost, and printer technology cost.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the cost of the electronic print job includes a cost of mailing.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the cost includes an estimated postage cost based on a set of postage determining factors.

10006500-1

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the postage determining factors include one or more of media weight, printer technology, print format, and
5 binding options.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting a menu of business rules;
10 receiving a selection of a business rule;
modifying the set of attributes to comply with the selected business rule;
re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the modified set
of attributes; and
displaying the re-calculated cost.

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9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the
modified set of attributes;
20 re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected
override of the modified set of attributes; and
displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

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10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the
modified set of attributes;
re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected
override of the modified set of attributes; and

10006500-1

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

11. A computer-implemented method of managing print job postage
5 costs, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic print job request, the print job having a set of attributes;

calculating a preliminary cost of the print job using the set of attributes;

presenting a menu of business rules;

10 receiving a selection of one of the business rules;

adjusting the set of attributes in response to the selection of one of the business rules; and

calculating a final cost based on the adjusted set of attributes.

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12. The method of claim 11, which further comprises displaying the final cost.

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13. A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for managing print job costs, the method steps comprising:

providing an electronic print job request, the print job request having a set of attributes;

25 displaying the set of attributes;

prior to printing the print job, calculating a cost of the electronic print job using the set of attributes; and

displaying the calculated cost.

10006500-1

14. The program storage device of claim 13, wherein the method further comprising:

presenting a menu of business rules;

receiving a selection of a business rule;

5 modifying the set of attributes to comply with the selected business rule;
re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the modified set
of attributes; and

displaying the re-calculated cost.

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15. The program storage device of claim 14, wherein the method further comprising:

receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the modified set of attributes;

15 re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected
override of the modified set of attributes; and

displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

16. The program storage device of claim 14, further comprising:
receiving a selection of an override of one or more attributes of the
modified set of attributes;
re-calculating the cost of the electronic print job using the selected
5 override of the modified set of attributes; and
displaying the newly re-calculated cost.

17. A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly
10 embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform
method steps for managing print job costs, the method steps comprising:
receiving an electronic print job request, the print job having a set of
attributes;
calculating a preliminary cost of the print job using the set of attributes;
15 presenting a menu of business rules;
receiving a selection of one of the business rules;
adjusting the set of attributes in response to the selection of one of the
business rules; and
calculating a final cost based on the adjusted set of attributes.

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18. The program storage device of claim 17, which further comprises
displaying the final cost.

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